In addition to its intrinsic historical value the book will be a delight to those interested in bookmaking. It is set in Baskerville and Eden types, printed on Garamond antique paper, and bound in Holliston Roxite with linen finish. It will be particularly appreciated by those readers who enjoyed Otto Fowle's *Sault Ste. Marie and Its Great Waterway* (1925) and Walter Havighurst's *The Long Ships Passing* (1942), as well as an earlier volume by the same authors, *Historic St. Joseph Island* (1938).

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Max P. Allen

The *Battle Cry of Freedom: The New England Emigrant Aid Company in the Kansas Crusade*. By Samuel A. Johnson. (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1954, pp. xii, 357. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, and index. $5.00.)

There is reason to believe that some of the books on Kansas published in 1954 can fairly be classified as potboilers, with no importance as historical studies. Happily, *The Battle Cry of Freedom* does not belong in that category. Professor Johnson of Harris Teachers College, St. Louis, was probing source materials long before the centennial of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The chances are that he would have brought out his volume at about this time with or without anniversaries to celebrate.

Not only Nebraska-Kansas experts but that larger army of historians interested in origins of the Civil War will find *The Battle Cry of Freedom* helpful and even stimulating. Virtually throughout his pages, Johnson's style does him credit; some of the duller incidents test his sprightliness, and he successfully meets the challenge. Attention is centered primarily on the New England Emigrant Aid Company, its origins, influence, membership, methods, and particularly its leaders. But other groups, communities, and individual settlers, having little or no direct connection with Amos A. Lawrence or Eli Thayer, are included in the picture. Since the author is concerned with the Kansas "crusade" as a whole, as well as with the N.E.E.A.C., he is warranted in extending his canvas and in painting a mural rather than a miniature. For this decision, and for a large part of the execution, students of history will be grateful.

No other geographical areas of the antebellum days were peopled by more colorful personalities than the Kansas
of 1854–1858 or the Massachusetts, Missouri, and Washington, D.C., which affected Kansas so significantly. From Thayer and Lawrence to Indiana’s James H. Lane, President Franklin Pierce, Governors Andrew H. Reeder and Wilson Shannon, David Rice Atchison, Charles Robinson, and “Captain” John Brown, scheming, arresting, timorous, or fanatical figures of the fifties are re-created here. And then the lives and deaths of Kansas towns, beleaguered blockhouses, barricaded hotels, the bluff and rant of border ruffians, and cool intrigues of New England businessmen give variety of pace and tempo. Johnson is basically a scholar, disinclined to sacrifice detail for the sake of drama. Therefore one finds pedestrian passages which the general reader may decide to slight. But the author has an eye for color, too, capitalizing on the many Kansas crises to gain and hold the reader’s attention. You are in for some excitement, as well as information, when you pick up The Battle Cry of Freedom.

Kansas specialists will be interested in learning that Professor Johnson is aware of, but not usually in accord with, the views of the late Frank H. Hodder on some highly important points. James C. Malin of the University of Kansas has looked askance at the assertion that arms were furnished northerners in Kansas by individuals and not by the company. This is “a distinction without a difference,” said Professor Malin; Johnson agrees, but finds it impossible to go along with the Malin thesis that it was also “a contemptible pretense.” On p. 128, Johnson says: “A man like Amos A. Lawrence would not stoop to pretense. He and his associates believed honestly that they were entirely free to do as individuals things that would have been grossly improper in an organization like the Emigrant Aid Company.” The reviewer, in this regard, subscribes to the Malin interpretation. On p. 299, Johnson himself concludes that the company “armed the free-state settlers,” which in fact it did—albeit by indirection.

The tone of the book as a whole is friendly to the anti-slavery cause, the company, and especially its guiding spirit. Nevertheless, the Johnson work contains numerous and striking examples of objectivity. From a bookmaking standpoint, there are also many things in its favor. The notes are in the back, but a degree of compensation is provided by a clear listing of pages to which the notes refer. The index is excellent; very infrequently, names of minor men are omitted. If General P. F. Smith did not happen to spell his first
name "Percifer," exceptions to the rule of almost faultless technical accuracy are rare indeed.

Johnson has taken into consideration many dozens of Kansas sources—manuscript letters, account books, articles, and monographs, in addition to book-length treatments of principal topics. The documentation is painstaking, the most extreme example being p. 184 with its six note references in twelve lines of narrative. The fact that this passage refers to John Brown's connection with Amos A. Lawrence and the company justifies the extra effort to nail down each statement.

Did Kansas "bleed" more than other areas of the American frontier and near-frontier? Was part of the Kansas "crisis" artificial? Did economic motives affect the "crusade"? These and related questions will be asked as long as Kansas fact and legend continue to arouse intellectual curiosity. Johnson comes to grips with several of the most provocative issues in his final chapter and elsewhere. Aside from turning in a most commendable job on the company's institutional history, he has dared to take a stand on many a controversial subject. Disagree as they may with some opinions expressed in *The Battle Cry of Freedom,* fair-minded critics will admire Johnson's book on many counts and will rate it one of the best recent additions to the expanding shelves of Kansas literature.

*University of Kentucky*

Holman Hamilton


This brief monograph is one of a series recently begun by the Public Affairs Press to expedite the publication of scholarly items, especially in the area of the liberal arts and the sciences, more inexpensively than heretofore. In this Hamilton seeks to determine which voters made possible Republican success—and thus the election of Lincoln—in 1860.

His thesis is that the Know Nothings were the essential factor in explaining Republican victory in 1860. He cites detailed election data to buttress his thesis. Those who have supported the proposition that the Germans added the element of victory in 1860 will find it hard to accept Hamilton's conclusion that the Know Nothings were of greater importance than this foreign element.

Even though he has accumulated an impressive volume of